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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

NIC 2989-83
27 April 1983

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH

[REDACTED]

National Intelligence Officer for Warning

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FROM

[REDACTED]

National Intelligence Officer for East Asia

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SUBJECT : East Asia Warning Assessment

Community representatives addressed the following topics at the 20 April Warning Meeting.

I. Warning -- No issues were identified for immediate discussion.

II. Regional Developments

A. Sino-Soviet Relations

Jack Sontag of State reported that China entered discussions with the Soviets primarily in order to improve relations, ease tensions, and, perhaps, for use as a lever to enhance relations with the US. The PRC may be expected to probe for areas of possible compromise and to press for Soviet concessions during future talks. Beijing, however, does not anticipate major Soviet moves on Afghanistan or Kampuchea, or significant reductions in Soviet troop strength on the border. Representatives at the meeting agreed that China may have gained ground in its long-term objective of being a "swing" rather than a "polarized player" as a result of the current negotiating stance.

B. North Korea -- Semi-War Alert

[REDACTED] DIA reported that the Alert was scheduled to end on about 17 April and appears to have blended into birthday celebrations for Kim Chong-il. Current military and agricultural activities are generally at normal, seasonal levels.

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Senior government officials and party authorities in Seoul expect the North to provoke an incident to disrupt the upcoming IPU Conference -- the first international gathering to be hosted by the South -- and anticipate that possible action by P'yongyang will have a "domino effect" on other multi-national events scheduled for Seoul.

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The NIO/EA suggested that a typescript memorandum be prepared for the Ambassador to South Korea examining differences between the North Korean and US view of conventional war strategy. Additionally, the NIO/EA complimented drafters who participated in preparation of the soon to be published Estimate

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D. Taiwan -- Chiang Ching-kuo Health

Representatives agreed that the health of the Taiwanese leader has not significantly changed, and that current reports of serious disability should be viewed in the context of his advanced age and the complications of diabetes. Chiang Ching-kuo's recent decision to delegate some authority appears to be working well.

E. Thailand/Kampuchea/Vietnam/China -- Border Situation

After a concise review of the current situation on the border, the DIA representative reported that the Vietnamese may be preparing for operations south of Pailin. The situation in other areas appears to be quiet; rains are anticipated in one to two weeks. China's reaction to Vietnamese border incursions is not expected to approach the level of actions taken in 1979.

Representatives concurred that the Vietnamese seemed to be more willing to violate Thai territory than necessary to develop operations during this offensive. Resistance forces are now hampered by the need to regroup and to rebuild; they must relocate large camps away from the border before they can successfully gain the initiative and make use of aid from ASEAN nations. DK prospects for growth do not appear to be good.

F-G. Thailand -- Political Situation and Philippine Military Base Agreement Review

Discussions on these issues were postponed to the next Warning Meeting.

III. Plans for Interagency Work

The NIO/EA discussed the current status of work in progress

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IV. Regional Policy Issues -- No new issues were identified.

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